PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

09-10

ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Table of Contents

Letters of Transmittal **3**
Introduction **5**
Alignment with Government's Direction **6**
Ministry Overview **7**
Progress in 2009-10 ..... **8**
2009-10 Financial Overview **22**
For More Information **26**
Appendices **27**

This annual report is also available in electronic format from the Ministry's website at **www.municipal.gov.sk.ca**

Letters of Transmittal

The Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

It is our privilege to submit to you the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Municipal Affairs for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010.

Our Government is committed to increased accountability, keeping our promises, and responsibly managing expenditures, while remaining transparent and accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs worked hard to support economic growth in Saskatchewan in 2009-10 by fostering effective municipal governance and government-to-government relationships through strong municipal leadership and engaged citizens. The Ministry has also kept its commitment to support sustainable municipal infrastructure and services through historically high levels of revenue sharing and unprecedented levels of funding for infrastructure.

These investments help our communities grow, create jobs and move our economy forward, creating a strong foundation for the development of vibrant, safe, and healthy municipalities for Saskatchewan people.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Municipal Affairs

July 2010

The Honourable Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Dear Minister:

It is my honour to submit the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Municipal Affairs for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010.

This report outlines progress on commitments and financial administration and management control as they relate to the Ministry as of March 31, 2010. It reflects a year of historically high investment in infrastructure and revenue sharing from all three levels of government to build strong sustainable communities. We will continue to work diligently to fulfill our mandate to foster and support a strong system of municipal government.

I acknowledge responsibility for this report and assure that the information contained herein is accurate and reliable.

Respectively submitted,

S.P. (Van) Isman
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs

June 2010

Introduction

This annual report presents the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' activities and results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010. It reports on public commitments made and other key accomplishments of the Ministry.

With the release of the Ministry Plan for 2009-10, results are provided on publicly committed strategies, actions and performance measures identified in the Plan. This report also demonstrates progress made on Government commitments as stated in the Government Direction for 2009-10, the Minister's 2007 mandate letter, throne speeches, and other commitments.

The 2009-10 Annual Report sets the stage for future planning and budgeting processes by providing an opportunity to assess the accomplishments, results, and lessons learned, and identifying how to build on past successes for the benefit of Saskatchewan people.

Alignment with Government's Direction

The Ministry's activities in 2009-10 align with Government's vision and three goals:

Our Government's Vision

A secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing a high quality of life for all.

Government's Goals

- Sustain Economic Growth for the benefit of Saskatchewan people, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.
- Secure Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family where people are confident in their future, ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit from the growing economy.
- Keep Government's Promises and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

Together, all ministries and agencies support the achievement of Government's three goals, and work towards a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs supports these goals by facilitating the development of vibrant, safe, self-reliant and accountable municipalities capable of providing leadership and serving the interests of Saskatchewan communities.

Municipal Affairs supports the Government's goal of **sustaining economic growth** by

- engaging municipalities in increasing capacity for economic development;
- supporting effective community planning; and,
- assisting municipalities in addressing critical infrastructure needs.

Municipal Affairs supports the Government's goal of a **secure Saskatchewan** by enabling municipalities to establish safe, healthy communities.

Municipal Affairs supports the Government's goal to **keep promises and fulfill commitments** by

- improving information on municipal capacity and needs;
- encouraging and facilitating municipal, First Nations and Métis relationships; and,
- increasing municipal financial and operational transparency and accountability.

Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs works with the municipal sector to develop programs, services, legislation, regulations and policies. This helps build good local governance and define and protect public interests in Saskatchewan's system of local government. The Ministry is responsible for municipal administration and operations in the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District.

Key partners include municipal councils, associations, administrators, community planners and property assessment appraisers. The Ministry works closely with other provincial ministries and in consultation with the provinces, territories and federal government.

Performance is monitored by the municipal sector's compliance with provincial legislation, program funding requirements, and accountability to the public and the provincial government. Municipalities are accountable for their use of program funds provided by the province and from programs established by federal-provincial agreements. They must comply with provincial legislation, which balances local independence with accountability, and provide good local governance to the public. Accountability is also demonstrated through municipal audited financial statements which display to the public and the Government how municipal funds were spent. The public also has access to property tax assessment data.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs' total 2009-10 full-time equivalent (FTE) utilization was 134.0 FTEs, representing a variance of 8.5 FTEs below the approved budget of 142.5 FTEs. The under-utilization is primarily the result of vacancy management. Offices are located in Regina, Saskatoon, La Ronge and Buffalo Narrows.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs hosts a shared services function that provides financial, communication and administrative services to multiple smaller ministries and entities, including the Office of the Provincial Secretary and the newly-formed Office of the Provincial Capital Commission.

Mandate

The Ministry works closely with municipalities, their representative organizations, and other provincial ministries to help ensure effective local government and sustainable municipal infrastructure and services. The Ministry also provides the legislative framework as well as some technical and policy support for cities, urban, rural and northern municipalities.

Key Programs and Services

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs is comprised of five program branches:

- Community Planning
- Grants Administration and Financial Management
- Northern Municipal Services
- Policy Development
- Strategy and Sector Relations

Municipal Affairs provides programs and services to a total of 786 municipalities throughout Saskatchewan. This assistance is provided through several lines of business: financial programs, governance, human capacity, policy, regulatory and relationship management. Fifteen cities and 451 other urban municipalities, including 145 towns, 266 villages and 40 resort villages, were provided services as at March 31, 2010. Programs and services were also provided to 296 rural municipalities and 24 northern municipalities. Unincorporated areas of northern Saskatchewan, including 11 northern settlements and 14 recreational subdivisions, are part of the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District and are administered by the Ministry.

Progress in 2009-10

Municipal Affairs supports Government's goal to Sustain Economic Growth for the benefit of Saskatchewan people, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.

Engage municipalities in increasing capacity for economic development

Results:

Implement the Municipal Sector Strategic Plan (MSSP) to set out long-term directions and a joint work plan for the municipal sector and the province

The MSSP is a joint initiative between the municipal sector and the province that supports cities, communities and regional economies. The MSSP is being developed through four "tables" of interest: Cities, Towns/ Villages, Rural and Northern Communities. In 2009-10, these tables:

- assisted in the dialogue between the province, service providers and the municipal sector on the provision of emergency services through the Public Safety Review Committee;
- completed a review of the Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program;
- surveyed communities in rural Saskatchewan regarding their role in the provision of health care services, especially in the field of health provider recruitment and retention;
- developed principles on which to base a provincial-municipal consultation protocol;
- participated in discussions on trade policy issues affecting the municipal sector;
- provided an opportunity to discuss Saskatchewan Environment's new Environmental Management Model and the implications of the model for the municipal sector;
- facilitated contact between the Ministry of Advanced Education Employment and Labour and several cities and towns for the purpose of developing an immigration services web portal;
- formed a working group of provincial and municipal officials to begin the development of a provincial/municipal capital infrastructure program;
- began discussions with the municipal sector regarding succession planning in the field of municipal administration; and,
- coordinated the development of a Municipal Performance Report. This report is intended to provide a look into the various lines of business that municipalities are in and to provide a snapshot of performance in a variety of areas. The document also highlights the areas where the municipal sector and the province have common interests and have worked together, such as public safety and security, economic viability and opportunity, recreation and leisure, effective infrastructure, and improving municipal capacity.

Implement a new provincial-municipal Saskatchewan infrastructure plan in partnership with the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure to meet Saskatchewan's requirements under the Building Canada Plan

Municipal Affairs (MA) has collaborated with the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, which is leading the plan's development, to complete the initial version of the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Plan. MA will continue to assist with plan amendments, as necessary, to meet requirements under the federal-provincial agreements.

Lead a partnership between ministries and the municipal sector to identify barriers and options to improve economic outcomes

Advisory Services are an important part of building municipal administrative capacity and contributing to strong municipal leadership. This unit within MA provides technical and operational counseling to elected and appointed municipal officials, citizens and other interested parties, and develops and delivers training to elected and

appointed municipal officials in order to build management and leadership capacity. These services and initiatives are delivered through a growing internet presence and strategic partnerships with the municipal sector.

Results for the period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010 include:

- 31 workshops on the topics of recent legislative amendments such as the *The Local Government Election Amendment Regulations, 2009*, tax enforcement, and election procedures were delivered to 1940 attendees;
- the workshops were developed in partnership with the Urban Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan and the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association; and,
- attendees reported a 99 per cent satisfaction rate with the workshops.

The Northern Municipal Trust Account (NMTA) signed a $1 million dollar contract to assist northern municipalities in conforming to the new Public Sector Accounting Board tangible capital asset and water and sewer analysis requirements. This support will also help develop a tool to aggregate infrastructure data and project future needs. The consultant has implemented several initiatives to support northern municipalities as they progress towards meeting these requirements, including providing municipalities with an inventory of their capital assets for use in preparing their 2009 financial statements.

Implement the commitment for municipal revenue sharing to provide municipalities with a sustainable and predictable revenue source that grows with the economy

The commitment for providing revenue sharing to municipalities that offers a sustainable and predictable revenue source was implemented in 2009-10 with the approval of the annual budget and the acts and regulations provided below. This program distributed $167.4 million to municipalities in 2009-10, a $32.3 million increase from 2008-09, consisting of the following:

- $107.0 million to urban municipalities;
- $48.7 million to rural municipalities; and,
- $11.7 million to northern municipalities (including $573,000 in transition funding).

This is the equivalent of 90 per cent of one point of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) (from 2007-08 Public Accounts, excluding the Liquor Consumption Tax component). This funding delivers on our Government's 2007 mandate letter commitment to increase funding for municipal revenue sharing over the next two years, while the commitment to base revenue sharing on one point of PST was made for the 2011-12 fiscal year. In subsequent years, the equivalent of one hundred per cent of one point of PST will be provided.

Funding will be distributed amongst municipalities according to an agreed upon formula. Commencing in 2009-10, pool sizes have been established at: 46 per cent allocated to cities, 18 per cent allocated to towns, villages and resort villages, 29 per cent to rural municipalities and seven per cent to northern communities.

- *The Municipal Grants Regulations* came into force retroactively on April 1, 2009 to implement the new revenue sharing program and consolidate the regulations for the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative and Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program under the new *Municipal Grants Act*.
- *The Municipal Grants Act* came into force retroactively on April 1, 2009. This new Act updated the municipal revenue sharing program, providing a single source of authority for grants to municipalities and other organizations for municipal purposes, as well as clarifying and simplifying the Minister's authority.
- *The Northern Municipal Operating Grants Regulations* replaced *The Northern Municipalities Revenue Sharing Program Regulations, 2004* as of April 1, 2009 to implement the new allocation of northern municipal operating grants.

Increase municipal capacity through programs and services and joint initiatives with the municipal sector including:

- *Municipal Leadership Development Program;*
- *Municipal Awards Program;*
- *Municipal Capacity Development Program; and;*
- *Municipal Forum and the Northern Municipal Roundtable.*

The Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP) strengthens local government leadership through key workshops that target specific issues of importance to municipalities. In 2009-10, the Ministry:

- continued to coordinate the MLDP Advisory Committee comprised of Municipal Affairs and five municipal associations;
- restructured the program to expand content and rename a module to now be called Financial and Strategic Planning for Municipalities;
- added a new full-day workshop on Community and Land Use Planning;
- worked with the municipal associations, particularly the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) as the program administrator, to secure a consultant to deliver two workshop modules for the next year. All MLDP workshops are now being delivered by non-government or private agencies;
- worked with municipal associations to change the dates/locations of the winter 2010 sessions with a goal to increase attendance. All six winter 2010 sessions were full and had a waiting list; and,
- facilitated a formal program review of the MLDP; this review was completed by the University of Regina.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Awards celebrate the excellent and innovative practices of Saskatchewan's municipal governments. In 2009-10, the Ministry:

- completed the third year of the program in May 2009;
- facilitated program administration directly with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA). SUMA more than doubled program sponsorship funding from external sources as compared to the previous year. All program elements were completed on time and budget;
- 2009 nomination submissions increased by approximately 10 per cent compared to the previous year;
- the number of promotional videos of award winners and finalists was increased compared to the previous year;
- enhanced media exposure was achieved compared to the previous year;
- 2010 program was initiated in fall 2009, with revised nomination forms; and,
- a new award category, Heritage Conservation Leadership, was added.

The Municipal Capacity Development Program (MCDP) helps build sustainable communities in Saskatchewan by encouraging and assisting municipalities in developing long-term municipal capacity on an inter-jurisdictional basis. The benefits of such an approach to capacity building range from achieving more effective, accessible and cost efficient services to managing growth and attracting economic opportunities on a regional basis. Results in 2009-10 include:

- Since its inception in 2007, the MCDP has helped to establish more than 28 intermunicipal groups ranging in size from three to 44 municipalities and encompassing over 200 municipalities. Over 100 intermunicipal projects have been initiated under MCDP. In the past year, the MCDP established over 14 intermunicipal working groups which meet regularly (at least once per quarter). These groups encompass 43 Saskatchewan municipalities, two First Nations and three Métis Communities. The groups range in size from approximately three to 12 municipalities.

- The Ministry continues to work in collaboration with MCDP by assisting in presentations and workshops.
- MA and MCDP collaborated to develop a new Guide to Municipal Cooperation.
- MA supported MCDP municipality groups by providing advice and presentations on matters such as facilitating development and infrastructure servicing, and the establishment of district planning commissions.

The Municipal Forum is a venue for consultation and collaboration between SARM, SUMA and the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The partnership is premised on a results-based approach through which the Government of Saskatchewan and the urban and rural municipal sectors will collaboratively address and coordinate key municipal issues. One Municipal Forum was held during the 2009-10 fiscal year (November 13, 2009). Topics discussed, relevant to MA, at the Forum included:

- Facilitating Growth – attendees agreed to continue to work towards securing Gas Tax interest funding to support baseline studies for city regions.
- Municipal Sector Strategic Plan (MSSP) Update – MA provided an update of all of the MSSP Tables; MA clarified with SARM how to determine bringing forward an item to the Forum or the MSSP Table.
- Rural/Urban Governance Model – MA provided an overview of legislative amendments required to recognize a new type of municipality. It was agreed that a working group consisting of MA, SARM and SUMA will be formed and will report back at the next Forum.
- A renewal of the Municipal Forum Letter of Understanding between the Ministry, SARM and SUMA was signed at the Forum.
- A presentation was provided by MA on Managing Growth at the November 2009 meeting. The presentation focused on the opportunities for joint planning and the establishment of district planning commissions and sought advice on what components should be included in an incentive program.

Northern Municipal Roundtable meetings are co-chaired by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Minister responsible for Northern Affairs, and the Chairperson of New North. The meetings focus on northern issues and provide an opportunity for ministries to discuss issues with northern elected officials. One Northern Roundtable was held during the 2009-10 fiscal year (January 19, 2010, in Prince Albert). The Roundtable opened with a dialogue session where community leaders could ask questions to a member of Cabinet. Topics discussed, relevant to MA, at the Roundtable primarily included:

- ensuring the province is engaged with northern leaders to help them address matters of mutual concern; and,
- increasing provincial Cabinet and, when applicable, federal representation at the Roundtable meetings.

Facilitate or manage the subdivision of land for consistency with municipal and provincial priorities, regulations, and interests for economic development

Through an estimated 20,000 contacts, including phone calls, e-mail and meetings, Ministry staff provided advice and information to developers, municipalities and others to facilitate planning, development and subdivision of land.

Manage the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative which will provide municipalities with interest rate subsidies for five-years on $300 million of municipal borrowing to support the provincial growth agenda, specifically related to residential, commercial, and industrial lot development

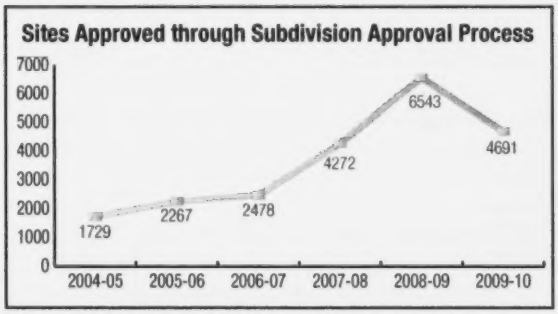
The Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative is a key component of the Government's growth agenda, as it serves to provide another option to fund municipal infrastructure related to lot development. Since its inception in 2008:

- $154.3 million in borrowing has been approved for interest subsidy payments, supporting 86 projects in 71 municipalities.
- Projects approved have contributed to the development of 2,189 residential lots, as well as five commercial lot projects, three industrial lot projects, and 31 off-site projects to support the growth.
- MA approved 22 projects in 21 municipalities under Intake 3, of which the deadline for applications was September 30, 2009. These projects have total approved borrowing of $15.9 million. The fourth and final intake closes September 30, 2010.

Measurement Results: Number of sites created through subdivision approval

The subdivision of land is a key step for investment in economic growth as it precedes actual development. The following charts display the subdivision applications processed and the resulting sites approved from April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010, and for the previous five years:

Figure 1.1



Source: Municipal Affairs - Community Planning

- Subdivision approvals continued at a relatively high rate in 2009-10 in comparison to the past five years and beyond. In 2009-10 the Ministry received 1,297 new applications. These applications were processed along with a backlog of 44 applications for a total of 1,341 approvals, resulting in 4,691 sites approved. Although there was a decline in the number of applications received and sites approved, the number of sites approved is the second highest on record. An overall trend to a higher number of sites per application adds complexity and time to the review process.
- Facilitating subdivisions supports the provincial objective for a prosperous economy. The elevated trend for lot development in the past several years, expected to continue in 2010-11 and beyond, represents significant investment in land and property within the province and places demands for new infrastructure to service the sites created.

Support effective community planning

Results:

Work with the municipal sector through the MSSP to identify and address barriers to economic growth and develop solutions

- Acting on direction from the November 2008 Municipal Forum, the Ministry worked with the sector to form a Facilitating Growth Working Group. Ministry officials initiated discussion with Enterprise Saskatchewan to ensure that actions taken by or with the municipal sector were complementary to those being taken in enterprise regions.
- Municipal Affairs participated in a workshop organized by the City Mayors Caucus and SARM where the topic of "how to plan more effectively" on a regional basis was discussed. MA received a regional growth proposal from SARM and the City Mayor Caucus.
- While not an initiative related directly to the MSSP, MA has also drafted a 'how-to" document for municipalities regarding annexation of land. Consultations on the guide will take place during the summer of 2010.
- MA worked with the sector to further develop a program for regional planning. Program development is currently underway.

Encourage regional planning for land use, infrastructure investment, and economic development

- MA provided direct assistance to five new groups of municipalities interested in establishing or renewing their district planning commission, including Weyburn, Moose Jaw-Regina Corridor, White Butte, Fort Qu'Appelle, and WaterWolf.
- MA coordinated the development and delivery of interministry presentations in support of regional planning efforts, involving eight other ministries.
- In December 2009, MA gave a formal presentation on Intermunicipal Cooperation to the City Mayors Caucus. The presentation focused on the opportunities for district and regional planning under the current legislation and proposed amendments to encourage the establishment of larger districts like WaterWolf to facilitate regional growth opportunities.
- Presentations on municipal planning legislation, district and intermunicipal planning, servicing and development processes were delivered at the Rural Municipal Administrators Association Convention, Enterprise Saskatchewan Summit, Association of Professional Community Planners of Saskatchewan Conference (APCPS), City Mayors Caucus, SUMA and SARM board meetings, and the Saskatchewan Public Works Association.
- A presentation on regional planning was presented at a conference for the APCPS.
- Four articles focusing on the opportunities for joint planning and effective servicing were provided through Municipalities Today, an electronic information source for local governments in Saskatchewan.
- Educational materials have been developed for the Community Planning webpage to assist municipalities in evaluating their planning needs, hiring professional planners, preparing Request for Proposals for an Official Community Plan (OCP), and establishing district planning commissions.

Review planning legislation and regulations to ensure the legal framework best supports the realization of municipal and provincial objectives

- MA received approval to consult on the Statements of Provincial Interest; consultations will occur between June and November 2010.
- The Ministry undertook stakeholder consultations and prepared a proposal for amendments to *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* for the fall 2010 session to enhance flexibility of the district planning model, improve the opportunities for inter municipal agreements, and provide for joint servicing and dispute resolution.
- Additionally, in 2009-10 amendments to *The Dedicated Land Regulations* were completed and a proposal to amend *The Subdivision Regulations* has been drafted with input from Information Services Corporation, the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors Association and the Association of Professional Community Planners. Consultations will continue through summer and fall of 2010 in coordination with a review of the effectiveness of the subdivision review process.

Consult stakeholders on provincial priorities for land use and development

The Ministry has worked with SUMA, SARM and New North officials to develop a Planning for Growth Program to provide cost shared funding to groups of municipalities to hire professionals to assist with developing local and regional plans. A similar program has been developed specific to northern municipalities, focusing on the provision of planning and development services to prepare OCPs and zoning bylaws and build administrative planning capacity to ensure plan implementation. Funding will be provided through Gas Tax interest fund, Enterprise Saskatchewan and potentially Western Diversification.

Work continued with the Town of La Ronge, the Northern Village of Air Ronge and the Lac la Ronge Indian Band on the development of a regional land use plan for the area around La Ronge.

Measurement Results: Municipalities with Official Community Plans

The Planning and Development Act, 2007 provides municipalities the authority to adopt OCPs. These plans set out policies to govern land use and development, outline the municipalities' economic growth strategies, encourage environmental stewardship, plan sustainable infrastructure, support recreational opportunities, and address community interests. Without OCPs, municipal councils do not have the policies and supporting legal authority to lead the municipality's development agenda.

Figure 1.2

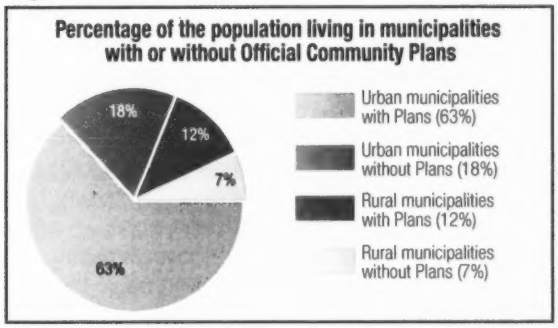
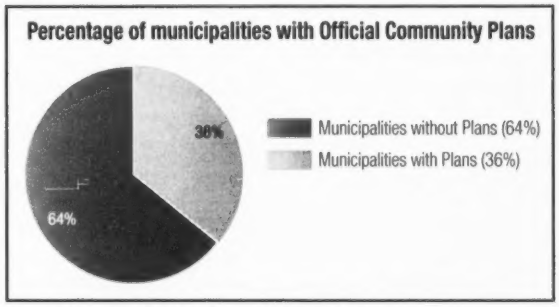

Percentage of the population living in municipalities with or without Official Community Plans
18%
12%
7%
63%
Urban municipalities with Plans (63%)
Urban municipalities without Plans (18%)
Rural municipalities with Plans (12%)
Rural municipalities without Plans (7%)

Figure 1.3



Source: Municipal Affairs - Community Planning

- As the first graph displays, the majority of Saskatchewan's population lives in communities that have adopted OCPs (75 per cent). However, as displayed in the second measure, many municipalities are still without OCPs. Without an OCP, municipalities have not established a plan for growth and community sustainability or the authority to facilitate new development opportunities to achieve cost-effective and efficient services for community residents and new land development.
- Since 2007, the economy in Saskatchewan has experienced significant growth, furthering the need for capable municipalities to implement OCPs in order to respond to increasing demands for residential and commercial lots, expanded infrastructure, and servicing to support community expectations and needs.
- The Ministry provides information through one-on-one staff discussions and workshops to municipal sector clients on the value of statutory plans to support efficient and responsible growth and development. Sample OCPs and Zoning Bylaws for rural and urban municipalities are available on our website. When municipalities finalize their statutory plans they may also use the information in the sample Interim Development Control bylaw to guide decision making.

Assist municipalities in addressing critical infrastructure needs

Results:

Provide capital funding through financial assistance programs to enable effective and efficient investments primarily for water, wastewater, solid waste, and local roads

Through application-based, competitive Building Canada Plan and federal Economic Stimulus programs, the provincial and federal governments have committed a total of $384.2 million for 354 projects to be provided to municipalities over the course of the multi-year programs. The $384.2 million in federal-provincial funding, which will be cash-flowed through MA, consists of:

- $227.4 million for 148 projects under the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component including Top-Up;
- $41.9 million for 67 projects through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund;
- $77.4 million for 18 projects under the Provincial-Territorial Base Funding;

- $15.0 million in provincial funds for 118 projects through the Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program; and,
- $22.5 million in provincial funds for three projects in the City of Saskatoon through the Building Canada Fund – Major Infrastructure Component.

During 2009-10, in addition to $167.4 million in Revenue Sharing, $228.8 million was administered through Municipal Affairs and provided to municipalities. The programs consisted of:

- $58.5 million for the federal Gas Tax program;
- $56.8 million to meet federal and provincial funding requirements related to infrastructure commitments in the 2007 and 2009 federal budgets;
- $78.0 million for the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component including Top-Up;
- $6.4 million for the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund;
- $3.2 million for the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative;
- $2.8 million for the Provincial Municipal Support Program; and,
- $1.3 million for the Urban Development Agreements.

The $228.8 million in support to our municipal partners also included:

- $2.9 million for the Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program;
- $12.2 million for grants-in-lieu of property taxes; and,
- $6.7 million for the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA).

Funding of $100 million was provided through the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program in 2008-09. Municipalities continue to complete their projects and submit progress reporting to the Ministry.

MA also successfully finalized the agreement between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Rural Municipality #187, Fort Qu'Appelle for the provision of a regional wastewater solution.

Encourage municipalities to use servicing agreements and development levies to fund infrastructure through the review of subdivisions and workshops

As of March 31, 2010 the Ministry has:

- advised municipalities on the requirement for, and preparation of, servicing agreements or development levies to adequately cover infrastructure and servicing costs for new development. A large proportion of 1,341 subdivisions applications approved required servicing agreements or triggered the application of development levies;
- prepared revisions to *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* expanding the opportunity for inter-municipal agreements, joint servicing and municipal utility parcels;
- worked with the MCDP to facilitate joint planning efforts among groups of municipalities and the establishment of district planning commissions; and,
- gave two presentations at the APCPS conference on opportunities for intermunicipal planning and municipal servicing.

Work with municipal associations and industry to review rates and legislation for road maintenance agreements. Municipalities and haulers enter into these agreements to ensure municipalities are compensated for the incremental maintenance and loss of road life costs due to heavy hauls.

The Province of Saskatchewan has implemented a new road maintenance agreement template for use by haulers and municipalities to meet needs identified by the road maintenance review committee. Road maintenance agreements provide the signing parties with an efficient method by which haulers compensate the municipality for the additional road maintenance and loss of road life resulting from their concentrated haul.

The Municipalities Act has been amended to include a new dispute resolution process. The amendments were included in MA's fall 2009 Legislative package and passed in the spring 2010 sitting of the legislature.

AECOM Canada Ltd. presented the findings of a study into actual municipal maintenance and repair costs. The study revealed most municipalities did not track the required data for actual costs. Government has decided more information is required and is proceeding with a pilot data collection study to get the data required to work with on a go forward basis. AECOM has completed the first part of the study identifying municipalities and roads to participate in the pilot project.

Invest in infrastructure for northern communities through the Northern Municipal Trust Account

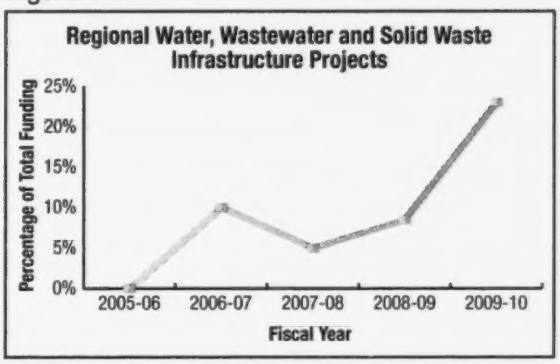
In 2009* the Northern Municipal Trust Account (NMTA) spent $6.5 million on the Northern Water and Sewer program and has budgeted $24.9 million for 2010. In addition, $1.5 million was spent on the Northern Capital Grant (NCG) Program, and $679,000 was spent on the Northern Residential Subdivision Program.

*Due to several factors, the NMTA operates under the calendar year of January 1st to December 31st, whereas the Ministry's fiscal year runs from April 1st to March 31st. The financial information presented above corresponds with the NMTA calendar year. The NMTA Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2009, can be found on the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' website at: http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/Overview/NMTA-AnnualReport2009.

Measurement Results: Percentage of funding provided to communities under 100,000 for regional water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure through major federal/provincial cost-shared infrastructure programs (as a percentage of total funding)

This measure is significant to the Ministry and the Government of Saskatchewan as regional solutions often provide an effective and efficient solution to local issues surrounding limited financial resources, increasing municipal infrastructure deficits, and environmental/health disaster risk. This measure tracks the amount of federal/provincial program funding that is provided to communities with populations fewer than 100,000 for regional water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure as a percentage of total funding provided under those categories.

Figure 1.4



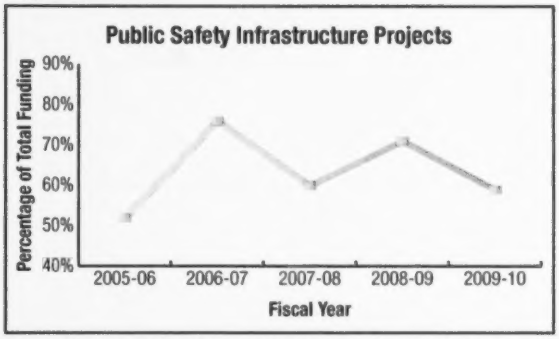
Source: Municipal Affairs - Grants Administration and Financial Management

- Significant funding in 2009-10 has been committed to regional infrastructure. Clean water is essential for a high quality of life in our province. To assist in ensuring clean water for communities, the province helped provide funding for several important regional projects in 2009-10.

Measurement Results: Proportion of infrastructure investment provided for public environmental and safety projects (water, wastewater, and solid waste projects) through federal/provincial cost-shared programs (as a percentage of total funding)

Government investments in health and safety related infrastructure projects are essential to promote quality of life for Saskatchewan residents and mitigate environmental/health risks. This measure tracks the proportion of federal/provincial cost-shared program funding provided for water, wastewater, and solid waste projects as a percentage of total funding provided.

Figure 1.5



Source: Municipal Affairs - Grants Administration and Financial Management

- The percentage decrease for public safety projects in 2009-10 is due to significant funding provided under the Recreation Infrastructure Canada program (all recreation projects) and to several large recreation projects that are nearing completion under the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component and the Provincial Territorial Base Fund. However, in 2009-10 the Ministry provided $84 million to public safety infrastructure, compared to $45 provided in 2008-09. This represents an increase of 86.8 per cent year over year.

Municipal Affairs helps to Secure Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family where people are confident in their future, ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit from the growing economy.

Enable municipalities to establish safe, healthy communities

Work with the municipal sector through the MSSP to identify and address needs for vital services, for example police and emergency services in communities

Results:

To ensure municipal policies strive to achieve provincial priorities for viable, safe and healthy communities, the Ministry provided review, advice and approval on 346 planning bylaws including:

- 10 new OCPs and 51 amendments;
- 15 new zoning bylaws and 239 amendments; and,
- 31 other bylaws relating to Interim Development Control, Dedicated Lands, and Subdivision.

Encourage municipalities to adopt policies for achieving safe, healthy communities

MA prepared and disseminated information to help municipalities understand and prepare for a possible pandemic and its impact on services. Information provided focused on:

- developing a municipal emergency plan;
- municipal responsibilities in the event of a potential pandemic; and,
- health and workplace information sources and information about how employees can mitigate the impact of a pandemic.

MA also participates as a member of the Public Safety Review Committee, in which SUMA and SARM also participate.

Review the Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program to maximize benefit for recipients and to ensure highest priority needs are addressed

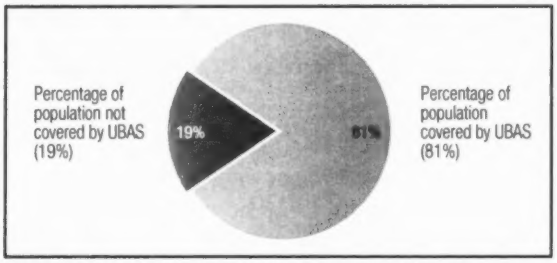
A consultant was contracted to review the Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program. The review was completed in spring 2010 and many communities and stakeholders were consulted.

Measurement Results: Percentage of municipalities with a building bylaw pursuant to The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act

This measure demonstrates municipal leadership in providing public safety through the adoption of building bylaws pursuant to *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* (UBAS) and enforcement of building standards that promote construction of safe buildings.

Figure 1.6

Figure 1.7



Source: Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing - Building Standards

- In 2009-10, 411 of 786 municipalities were without a UBAS building bylaw pursuant to the Act, while 375 municipalities had UBAS approved building bylaws in place. Focusing on the percentage of the province's population with UBAS building bylaws, 81.2 per cent of Saskatchewan is covered, not including reserve populations. Inspections on reserves where the National Building Code is utilized are conducted by First Nations building officials.
- Ongoing and developing efforts and initiatives by the Ministry, as well as interministry and agency coordination, will increase the implementation of UBAS building bylaws by municipalities. Interjurisdictional planning provides a means of building municipal planning capacity and developing Official Community Plans and building bylaws. The Ministry is working with municipalities to enhance interjurisdictional opportunities through the Municipal Capacity Development Program and assisting communities interested in working together through district planning initiatives.

Municipal Affairs helps to Keep Government's Promises and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

Improve information on municipal capacity and needs

Results:

Continue to develop a municipal asset information system to support provincial and municipal decisions on asset management and infrastructure investments

The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the need for a more strategic method of funding municipal infrastructure and a planned approach to infrastructure investment. Part of that process requires a transition from Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) PS 3150 compliance, which requires municipalities to report Tangible Capital Assets (TCA) on their Statement of Financial Position effective January 1, 2009, to integrated asset management (IAM) capacity building at the local level.

In April 2009, the Northern Municipal Trust Account Management Board (NMTA MB) determined Northern Saskatchewan required consulting services to attain mandatory PSAB PS 3150 tangible capital asset reporting, achieve Waterworks System Assessment (WSA) compliance and implement a pilot project for IAM. The project was to enable northern communities to complete their 2009 financial statements in compliance with the PSAB PS3150 requirements, as well as comply with the Ministry of Environment's requirement for the 2010 WSA.

- In July 2009, MA awarded a tender to Associated Engineering to complete and implement this work in northern municipalities. The contract is nearing completion and final results are expected in the 2010 summer. The northern project provides a unique opportunity to pilot local asset management practices.

- The Ministry is working to establish best practices for the collection, storage, and display of detailed asset data. MA, on behalf of the NMTA MB, negotiated and signed contracts to licence and host an asset management software system enabling northern communities to better manage their assets.

Provide details to the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure to inform the development of a new provincial-municipal Saskatchewan infrastructure plan, which is required to meet Saskatchewan's requirements under the Building Canada Plan

MA collaborated with the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure to complete the initial version of the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Plan and will continue to assist with plan amendments, as necessary, to meet requirements under the federal-provincial agreements.

Encourage and facilitate municipal, First Nations and Métis relationships

Results:

Inform municipalities of their duty to consult through municipal bylaw review workshops and informational sessions and meet the Ministry's duty to consult obligation by consulting with First Nations and Métis communities on Ministry decisions that may affect Treaty and Aboriginal Rights such as formulation of legislation, and approval of municipal bylaws and subdivisions

MA has participated in the interministry working group, led by the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations (FNMR) to finalize the new First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework. MA continues to encourage municipalities to develop relationships with neighbouring First Nations in advance of development. MA will be working with FNMR to implement the new policy and advise municipalities of any responsibilities they may have.

MA continued work with FNMR to provide information on the duty to consult. Questions and answers are on the MA website and information is provided at municipal sector workshops. Municipalities are advised of their potential obligation to consult when they make independent decisions which may impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights to hunt, fish or trap. MA continues to assess the need for consultation in their review of bylaws and subdivisions. Municipalities are encouraged to build relationships with neighbouring First Nations and Métis communities in advance of development.

MA has worked with a national committee of municipal affairs ministries to identify best practices for consultation with First Nations and Métis for the purpose of informing senior policy officials nationally.

Facilitate discussions among municipalities and First Nations and Métis people to enhance shared services and stimulate economic development

The Ministry regularly facilitates discussions between First Nations and Métis and municipalities on land development issues. Specific consultations to meet duty to consult obligations with First Nations and Métis groups resulted in the review of 15 bylaws and provided valuable information for the related subdivision project.

MA continues to work with the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation on resolving Treaty Land Entitlement Claims in northern Saskatchewan as well as on joint services such as water and sewer systems and landfills. In addition, the Ministry has worked with Lac la Ronge Indian Band on joint and regional services in the La Ronge area.

The Northern Municipalities Act 2010 was introduced in fall 2009, completing the second phase of amendments to this *Act*. The new *Act* includes provisions to facilitate partnerships between northern municipalities and First Nations and Métis in areas such as regional municipal service delivery.

Increase municipal financial and operational transparency and accountability

Results:

Educate and raise awareness of roles and responsibilities of elected and administrative officials

The Ministry conducted workshops for newly elected mayors and councillors regarding their roles and responsibilities prior to the Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan (PARCS) annual convention in October. Two workshops in November following rural/urban elections were also conducted.

Advisory Services help grow municipal capacity through supplying administrative and technical advice to elected and appointed officials. Services supplied to officials include:

- educational programs, developed and delivered with municipal associations;
- seminars at annual conventions of our municipal partners – SARM, SUMA, PARCS, the Rural Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan and the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan;
- municipal information manuals, technical bulletins and online documents; and,
- workshops on pertinent issues, 31 of which were delivered in 2009-10.

To assist in addressing concerns over the training, recruitment and retention of qualified municipal administrators, a Northern Local Government Administrators Certification program was implemented in 2008. The program is run by Northlands College and is affiliated with the University of Regina. Twenty individuals were enrolled in the program in 2009, and three more students joined the program in the winter 2010 semester. Six students have graduated from the program since its inception. In addition, a retired municipal administrator has been contracted to provide mentoring to students to help them obtain certification.

Develop, implement, and publish progress measures in collaboration with municipalities on key municipal services, such as public safety and security, effective and safe infrastructure, quality of life, economic vitality and opportunity and capacity, made possible through municipal revenue sharing

A draft set of shared interest areas and performance indicators has been developed. Fine tuning and long-term monitoring of the progress measures is being discussed and implemented through the MSSP Tables.

Develop a municipal information database as a comprehensive source of municipal information from all ministries to support Government analysis and decision-making

The Ministry developed a concept and implementation paper outlining a three-phased approach to build the Municipal Information Dataportal (MID) over the next two years:

- The first phase, a six-month development period from June to November 2009, established the MID website with more than 100 links to web-based information currently available across 13 broad categories of interest.
- Phase 2 is currently underway and includes expansion of information and applications identified through consultation with other ministries. Other ongoing work includes development of existing data into electronic format for internet delivery (e.g. mill rate survey, municipality base maps, etc.).
- Phase 3 will concentrate on web-based data development projects. Project prioritization and resource allocation is currently underway. Examples include development of databases and Geographic Information System applications for enhanced data analysis (e.g., municipal sustainability self-assessment tool). Ministry resources and training are already in place to support much of this planned development.

Support municipal compliance with Public Sector Accounting Board requirements

To support municipal compliance with PSAB, federal-provincial funding was provided and resulted in the following:

- pilot projects for a town, village and rural municipality were undertaken and presentations were made to urban and rural administrators from May through June 2009;
- urban and rural costing models were developed to assist municipalities with tangible capital asset cost estimates;
- online resources such as manuals, presentations, and webinars were made available;
- eight financial statement workshops were conducted throughout the province on the new PSAB reporting format in 2009-10. Six workshops conducted in October 2009 were delivered to 720 attendees. Two workshops were held at SUMA and SARM conventions in February and March 2010, respectively. Together, these two workshops were delivered to approximately 350 attendees; and,
- a Municipal Support program was launched to provide municipalities with access to engineering and accounting support.

Enhance legislated accountability and transparency for the municipal sector

Amendments to *The Municipalities Act, The Cities Act* and the new *Northern Municipalities Act* were introduced in the Legislature in fall 2009. These amendments refine legislation to better meet municipal and provincial needs. *The Northern Municipalities Act* brings the framework for northern municipal governance in line with the framework for southern municipalities, while incorporating provisions to address a number of unique northern needs and priorities.

- *The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2009* and *The Cities Amendment Act, 2009* were introduced in fall 2009. These bills continue the Government of Saskatchewan's ongoing practice to consult with the municipal sector to periodically refine and update legislation, ensuring it meets municipal needs.
- *The Northern Municipalities Act 2010* was introduced in fall 2009, completing the second phase of amendments to this *Act*. This new legislation modernizes the roles and responsibilities of northern municipalities similarly to southern municipalities, while addressing unique northern circumstances.
- *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act* was introduced in fall 2009. These changes will strengthen Government's role related to assessment policy making and help to ensure future decisions are consistent with provincial goals and priorities, change the SAMA board composition and change the funding formula.
- *The Local Government Election Amendment Regulations, 2009* implemented amendments prior to the fall 2009 municipal elections to address residency requirements, voter's lists and appointment of election officials.

Support implementation of the education property tax initiative

MA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, implemented a number of changes to support the new education property tax regime including:

- Supported the modification of software applications, such as municipal taxation software, necessary to implement program changes to make the new education property tax system work (i.e. commercial tiers) and ensure that tax notices could be delivered in a timely basis without disruption because of provincial government decisions;
- engaged in discussions with SAMA, Alberta and Lloydminster regarding the process for setting education mill rates in the border city; and,
- commenced a review of management of property tax exemption, abatements, discounts and penalties in relation to education property tax and the Ministry of Education's role in this process.

2009-10 Financial Overview

Financial Results

Total 2009-10 expenses for Municipal Affairs were $410.0 million, representing a variance of $70.3 million above the approved appropriation, primarily as a result of increased infrastructure funding. To offset this over-expenditure, supplementary estimates in the amount of $77.7 million were approved for Building Canada Fund – Communities Component (BCF–CC) and for Municipal Infrastructure Grants.

Municipal Affairs' total 2009-10 revenues were $79.3 million, representing a variance of $3.8 million below budget. This variance is primarily attributable to a slower progression of Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund projects than originally anticipated thereby resulting in lower than anticipated cost share revenue and a decrease in subdivision applications and approvals. This decrease is partially offset by an increase in revenue for the BCF–CC representing the federal contributions for projects that received advanced provincial funding in 2008-09.

Summary

The following table summarizes budgeted versus actual expenses by subvote and subprogram. Variance explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than 5% and $100,000.

	In thousands of dollars				
Subvote/Subprogram	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Estimates	2009-10 Actual	Variance Over/(Under)	Notes
Central Management and Services	**4,308**	**4,816**	**4,701**	**(115)**	
Municipal Financial Assistance	**336,612**	**265,770**	**337,671**	**71,901**	
Urban Revenue Sharing	77,826	107,136	107,025	(111)	
Rural Revenue Sharing	52,578	48,546	48,656	110	
Northern Revenue Sharing	11,038	11,718	11,718	–	
Rural Municipal Primary Weight Corridors	8,869	–	–	–	
Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program	2,648	2,920	2,910	(10)	
Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes	11,408	13,000	12,241	(759)	1
SAMA (Authorized by Law)	5,870	6,320	6,320	–	
SAMA (Supplementary)	330	330	330	–	
Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund	32,184	20,883	6,420	(14,463)	2
Municipal Economic Enhancement Program	99,900	–	–	–	
SIGI Loan Program	606	5,586	3,189	(2,397)	3
Building Canada Fund – Communities Component	31,613	20,000	78,034	58,034	4
Municipal Infrastructure Grants	–	25,000	56,802	31,802	5
Provincial Municipal Support	229	2,803	2,775	(28)	
Urban Development Agreements	1,513	1,528	1,251	(277)	6
Municipal Relations	**6,596**	**7,397**	**7,802**	**405**	7
Federal Municipal Assistance	**48,645**	**60,187**	**58,450**	**(1,737)**	
Gas Tax Program	33,121	60,187	58,450	(1,737)	
Public Transit Program	15,524	–	–	–	
Saskatchewan Municipal Board	**1,227**	**1,527**	**1,332**	**(195)**	
Administration – Local Government Committee	909	1,029	1,000	(29)	
Planning Appeals Committee	100	106	112	6	
Assessment Appeals Committee	218	392	220	(172)	8
Sub-total	**397,388**	**339,697**	**409,956**	**70,259**	
Supplementary Estimates/Special Warrant	**–**	**77,731**	**–**	**–**	
Capital Assets	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	
Capital Asset Acquisitions	–	–	–	–	
Capital Asset Amortization	–	–	–	–	
Total Appropriation	**397,388**	**417,428**	**409,956**	**(7,472)**	

Note: The financial results above reflect the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, as well as administrative costs associated with the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Office of the Provincial Secretary, through a shared service arrangement with these two Ministries.

Explanations of Major Variances

2009-10 Results:

1) Lower than anticipated payments, based on information received from Government Services.

2) Delayed timelines and construction starts due to federal amendments and local financing and design issues, and the reallocation from the 2009-10 budget appropriation to the 2008-09 budget to offset an over-expenditure due to municipal infrastructure projects progressing at a significantly accelerated rate in 2008-09.

3) Lower interest costs incurred for municipal borrowing approvals due to decreased interest rates and municipalities not obtaining borrowing as early as anticipated.

4) Accelerated infrastructure funding as well as projects proceeding faster than originally anticipated.

5) Accelerated infrastructure funding.

6) City of Saskatoon projects were delayed until 2010-11.

7) Redesign of software used to project property assessment and tax shifts to accommodate changes from the Education Property Tax initiative.

8) Reduced honorariums and retainers and travel due to delays in appeal hearings process.

Summary of Revenues

The Ministry's major revenue relates to agreements with the federal government. All revenue collected is deposited in the General Revenue Fund. A summary of the Ministry's 2009-10 budgeted revenue compared to actual revenue is presented below. Variance explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than $100,000.

	In thousands of dollars				
Revenue Category	2008-09 Actual Revenue	2009-10 Budget	2009-10 Actual Revenue	Variances Over/ (Under)	Notes
Revenue					
Other Licenses and Permits	**1,385**	**1,250**	**693**	**(557)**	
Subdivision Fees	1,385	1,250	693	(557)	1
Sales, Service, Service Fees	**124**	**96**	**38**	**(58)**	
Debenture Authorization	67	60	30	(30)	
Miscellaneous Services	5	6	3	(3)	
Other Service Fees	52	30	5	(25)	
Transfers from the Federal Government	**45,917**	**81,796**	**78,476**	**(3,320)**	
Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund	16,168	10,000	3,169	(6,831)	2
New Deal Federal Gas Tax Transfer	29,548	59,095	59,095	–	
Building Canada Fund – Communities Component	–	12,500	16,011	3,511	3
Employability Assistance	201	201	201	–	
Other Revenues	**127**	**5**	**95**	**90**	
Refunds – Previous Years' Expenditures	127	5	95	90	
Total Revenue	**47,553**	**83,147**	**79,302**	**(3,845)**	

Explanations of Major Variances

1) Decreased sub-division applications.

2) Delayed timelines and construction starts due to federal amendments and local financing and design issues.

3) Federal contribution reflective of funding advanced in 2008-09.

Financial Accountability Statement

Municipal Affairs is responsible for ensuring:

- public accountability for Government finances entrusted to the Ministry;
- fiscally responsible management of its resources and financial affairs;
- compliance with existing legislation and regulations;
- systems and controls are in place to safeguard public assets; and,
- appropriate results are reported to the public and the legislature.

There are a number of external controls in place to monitor these responsibilities. They include:

Audited Results – The Provincial Auditor's Office has legislative responsibility to audit Municipal Affairs. Audit conclusions are published in a report to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. If a deficiency is reported by the Provincial Auditor, the Ministry may be called to appear before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature.

Accountable to Legislature – The Ministry's annual budget is detailed in the Saskatchewan Provincial Budget Estimates. The Ministry is called to appear before a Legislative Committee to defend the Ministry's budget estimates.

Public Reporting – Expense and revenue details as they pertain to the Ministry are published in the Ministry's Annual Report and Public Accounts.

For More Information

Additional information about the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is available at: **www.municipal.gov.sk.ca**. The website includes general and detailed information about the Ministry, its key programs, special studies and legislation for which the Ministry is responsible.

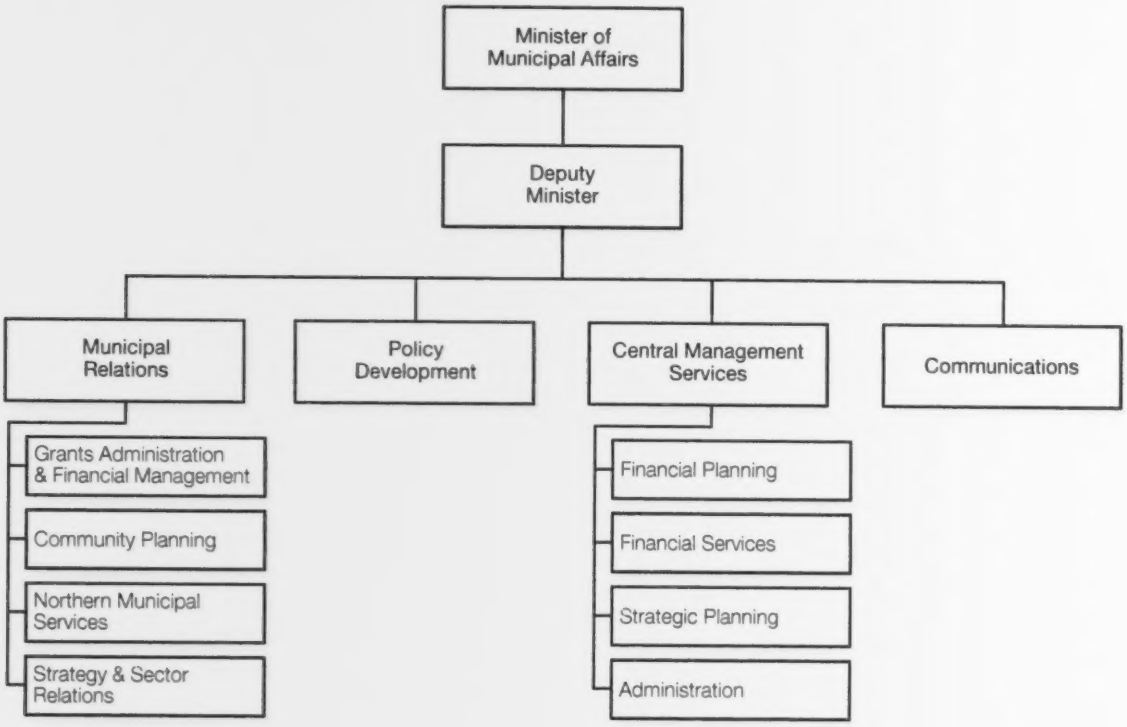
For more information about Municipal Affairs, or to provide feedback about our 2009-10 Annual Report or performance results, please contact us at:

Phone: (306) 787-2635
E-mail: **muninfo@gov.sk.ca**

Mailing address:
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
1855 Victoria Avenue
Regina SK S4P 3T2

Appendices

Organizational Chart as at March 31, 2010



In 2009-10, the Ministry updated the structure of its website, **www.municipal.gov.sk.ca**, to improve usability and accessibility to all of Municipal Affairs' publications. The website contains information on five key areas which support the Ministry's strategies:

- Programs & Services
- Growth & Development
- Funding
- Municipal Administration
- Health & Safety

Legislative Responsibilities

The Acts below and their associated regulations are the responsibility of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs:

- *The Assessment Appraisers Act*
- *The Assessment Management Agency Act*
- *The Borders Areas Act*
- *The Cities Act*
- *The City of Lloydminster Act*
- *The Community Planning Profession Act*
- *The Controverted Municipal Elections Act*
- *The Cut Knife Reference Act*
- *The Department of Rural Development Act*
- *The Department of Urban Affairs Act*
- *The Flin-Flon Extension of Boundaries Act, 1952*
- *The Local Government Election Act*
- *The Local Improvement Act, 1993*
- *The Municipal Board Act*
- *The Municipal Debenture Repayment Act*
- *The Municipal Development & Loan (Saskatchewan) Act*
- *The Municipal Expropriation Act*
- *The Municipal Grants Act*
- *The Municipal Industrial Development Corporations Act*
- *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Act*
- *The Municipalities Act*
- *The Municipality Improvements Assistance (Saskatchewan) Act*
- *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2009*
- *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*
- *The Rural Development Act*
- *The Rural Municipalities Administrators Act*
- *The Subdivisions Act*
- *The Tax Enforcement Act*
- *The Time Act*
- *The Urban Municipal Administrators Act*
- *The Urban Municipality Act, 1984*